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**Sue Ellspermann
LT. GOVERNOR**

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Lt. Governor Ellspermann Announces Participants in the First My Community, My Vision Program

INDIANAPOLIS – Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann today announced the five teams that will participate in the “My Community, My Vision” program that engages high school students in planning for the future of their local rural communities. Student leaders from the communities of Hanover, Pekin, Rushville, Vevay and Lawrence County will continue to the next step of the pilot program where they will develop more formal and detailed plans with assistance of graduate students from the Ball State University School of Urban Planning and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA). The five teams will each receive a \$500 award for their sponsoring organizations.

“This new initiative was created to encourage our next generation of civic and government leaders, to help define the future of their communities,” said Lt. Governor Ellspermann.

“Maintaining strong and viable rural communities is essential to the future of our great state. I congratulate each of the eleven student groups who applied and commend them for taking this big step to learn about the planning process and collaborative efforts required to create the community they envision.”

The My Community, My Vision program is sponsored by Lt. Governor Ellspermann and is being administered by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority with assistance from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Social media was used to share information and solicit applications. Both the Indiana FFA and the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) assisted as well. Initial applications required essays outlining ideas for enhancing the development and quality of life in their home communities through their local research and in consultation with local officials and civic leaders.

Eleven applications were submitted by student groups from Cloverdale, Hanover, Huntingburg, Jasper, Martinsville, Mt. Vernon, Pekin, Rushville and Vevay as well as Lawrence and Jennings Counties.

Media Contact:

Amber Kent, Public Information Officer

IHCDA

akent1@ihcda.IN.gov